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LAMONT MAN SENTENCED FOR COUNTERFEITING ID DOCUMENTS

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MANUEL QUINTINO PEREZ, 43, of Lamont, California, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to 15 months in prison for possessing and counterfeiting false identification documents. He was also ordered to serve a three-year term of supervised release.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Bakersfield Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Sheila K. Oberto and Marianne Pansa, who prosecuted the case, in rejecting the defense's request for probation, Judge Ishii considered the serious nature of the offense as well as the deterrent effect of the prison sentence.

In connection with his guilty plea, PEREZ admitted that he would meet potential customers seeking false immigration documents at his home, charge \$100 for a "white" card (the newer version of the United States Permanent Resident card) and \$50 for the "rosita" or "pink" card (the older version), and deliver the false documents to them.

During a search of his residence, agents found a scanner, printer, heat seal, typewriter, cutting implements, stamp pad, printing paper and stock, and a Polaroid camera which PEREZ used to make the false identification documents.

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